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Letters should be signed with the writer's real

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AGRICULTURAL.

At an adjourned meeting of the Mas-

sachusetts Horticultural Society, the

following vote was passed:

Voted, That the president be author-

ized to receive proposals for the better-

ing of the society's accommodations by

the erection of a new building on the

present site. The society to be put to

no expense on account of said propos-

als, but the president may have such

plans as may be offered hung in the

lower hall for the inspection of the

members.

In his review of the 1897 strawberry

crop, Mr. Geo. H. Wheeler of Concord,

says:—

As usual some varieties that did well

the year before, did not come up to

their usual standard. The season was

against a good crop, as we had some

heavy rains during the blossoming se-

ason.

Enormous did wonderfully well,

large fruit and plenty of it which

brought good prices in the Boston mar-

ket. Brandywine very fine large crop

and fine fruit. Glen Mary large and of

excellent quality. I fruited only a few

plants, but am satisfied that it is a good

one.

Babach as good as ever; Leader not

very good. Marshall rusted badly.

Barton's Ellipse and Greenville were

fine. Lovett and Haverland were up

to their usual standard. Parker Earle

was badly winter killed in spots, so I

did not get as much fruit as usual.

Fountain is an excellent berry. Wool-

verton and Eubance did finely. Wm.

Belt is very large and promises very

well.

Our illustration this week shows the

Hastening the Maturity of Garden Crops.

At this time of year every one is either directly or indirectly interested in gardening. Most of us are either growing garden crops in a small way for home use or in a larger way for the market. To each class of growers early maturity of crops is of the greatest importance. One finds his profits more dependent on earliness than on any other single factor and the other finds his chief satisfaction in the success achieved, in attempts at producing products of his own garden a few days sooner than others in the vicinity. Any means, therefore, which shall enable us to hasten by only a few days, or even hours, the natural time for the harvesting of the products is of value and worthy of careful attention. A few simple, though possibly little practiced, means by which this object may be accomplished with some of the more common crops are here offered may gardening friends with the hope that their utilization may prove as satisfactory to them as they have been to me.

It must first be taken for granted that all crops in question have been sufficiently supplied with plant food in some available form to meet the demands of the plant for nourishment and complete development. In this connection, it should be remembered that, other things being equal, mineral fertilizers tend to hasten maturity while on the other hand manure has an equally pronounced tendency to retard maturity. The explanation doubtless lies in the fact of the greater solubility, and consequent greater availability, of the mineral food. In this same connection it must be remembered that all nitrogenous foods, by the tendency to produce rank and foliaceous growth, result in retarding the development of crops to which they are applied in excess.

The obvious lesson is that whatever rapid development is desired, the excessive use of nitrogenous manures should be avoided, and that potash which has an equally pronounced effect in hastening maturity should be the predominant constituent of fertilizer supplied.

Most plants the seeds, or seed envelop, of which form the edible portion, continue in bloom and go on producing flowers for considerable periods so that blossom and mature fruit are usually found on the same plant. If, therefore, the growing, or blossom-bearing stem be pruned or clipped soon after the earliest blooms appear, the strength and vitality of the plant is forced into the maturing of these, rather than being allowed to find outlet in the formation of new ones, and the maturity of these earlier blossoms will be materially hastened. Tomatoes, peas, pole-beans, cucumbers, melons and egg-plant may be thus treated with the result of producing edible fruit from a week to ten days earlier than if the natural development had been allowed to continue.

The maturity of tomatoes may be easily hastened from one to two weeks by selecting seed from full-grown but green fruit. Irish potatoes are susceptible to material modification in time for maturing by simply placing the seed-potatoes in a place exposed to the sunlight for some two weeks previous to planting, or till the tuber has become quite green in color and the sprouts have well developed. I have often found a difference of ten to fourteen days in the time of maturing by this treatment. In after cutting or handling the tubers, a little care must be exercised that the sprouts are not injured.

Sweet corn, which is usually supposed to be beyond artificial means of control as to ripening, I have found to be very susceptible to treatment, but with less difference in time effect. The silk, or female flower, always matures some days earlier than the mass of pollen, on the tassel, is ready to fall and fertilize the silk. If the plant is well jarred, at this period, by a blow struck with the hand or stick as the operator passes between the rows, the pollen will be shaken from its hold and fall upon the silk considerably sooner than when left to nature and the wind. As a result, the ears are ripe earlier than would otherwise be the case, a difference on the

average of three to four days being thus secured.

These facts are all in accordance with laws well recognized, though not frequently utilized in the manner described. When it is remembered to what an extent the price of garden crops depends on the date of marketing, the importance of taking advantage of all the idiosyncrasies of plant growth tending toward shortening the time required for development becomes apparent. The pleasure of the gardener in achieving further control over the forces of nature is by no means an unimportant consideration in summing up the advantages secured.

H. E. STOCKBRIDGE.

The Outlook for Dairying.

The dairy outlook for 1898 is more encouraging than for some time past, and those engaged in it may well enter upon the season with more than ordinary confidence. The reasons for the present cheering prospect are due mainly to the following facts:

Never before has this country had more enthusiastic men at the forefront of the dairy business. These men are not content to follow the beaten track followed by those who have gone before, but are constantly reaching out for new methods and better equipments in every branch of this great industry.

In nothing is the effect of this enthusiasm more apparent than in the improvement of dairy herds. This country has never seen so many dairies of really good cows as at the present time. True, there are still many poor cows in the pastures of the dairy states, but the day of the "scrub" cow is rapidly passing away. Men are coming to see that in order to keep anywhere in the race they must bring their herds nearer to the standard set by their more successful neighbors. There is only one way to succeed at the present time and that is by bringing one's herd up to the highest possible degree of excellence and, putting upon the market an article which shall stand the test at all times and under all circumstances.

As the result of these two prime facts our butter stands high in the markets of the world. The prestige already gained may be followed up to great advantage, if the support given by the authorities of the Agricultural Department is continued, as we have no reason to doubt that it will.

With more and more stringent laws being enacted against the manufacture of bogus butter, and a more rigid enforcement of those already upon the statute books, there is every reason to believe that this year will see greater strides toward the high end which every earnest dairyman hopes to attain. Better prices shall surely follow such faithful efforts to advance the quality of our dairy products. This will be a most gratifying result of the present determined effort to push dairying to the front.

E. L. VINCENT.

Broome Co., N. Y.

Cultivating the Wild Blackberry.

EDITOR MASS. PLOUGHMAN:

I have a great number of wild blackberry vines upon my place. Can you or some one of the readers of the PLOUGHMAN tell me of the best method of bringing them under cultivation and oblige,

G. H. H.

[Unless the variety is a great improvement on the common blackberry, it would not be best to try cultivation; they do not take kindly to it. If, however, the variety is good, something might be done by cutting out the old stalks and cutting back the new ones when five feet high. We half suspect that G. H. H. has the wild dewberry, which he calls blackberry; if so, then he has a more difficult task to bring them under cultivation because of their trailing habits. We have found the best way to get good crops of this fruit is to plough the ground every two years, and let the vines grow without cultivation. In this way, we have had good success, but to get fruit every year it is necessary to have two plots of land.]



THE AGRICULTURAL BUILDING

At the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition in Omaha, Neb., June to November, 1898.

The Outlook for Profitable Fruit Growing in Massachusetts.

[Read before the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association at Worcester, March 10, by John W. Clark, of North Hadley, Mass.]

In the early history of our state, the planting of fruits was simply for home use. Commercial orchards were not thought of. The varieties planted were those brought from the mother country, and trees grown from seed without being grafted. In most cases, the trees brought from the mother country proved unsatisfactory and were replaced by the best of the many seedlings that had sprung up among the colonies. This was more especially true of the apple.

In the earlier days of the colonies and for some time after, one of the chief uses made of the apple was the production of cider and its products. In the fourth report of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture (1863), this statement is made in regard to apple orchards: "Fruit is cultivated in the country at large to a comparatively small extent, and since the progress of the temperance reformation throughout the country, cider has fallen into almost entire disuse. Apple orchards are neglected and young orchards are not planted as frequently as formerly."

This made the orchards composed of seedling trees bearing their natural fruit of little value, and being left to care for themselves they gradually died out, and for some time few apple orchards of any great extent were planted. But as the state increased in wealth and population, more and better fruits were called for, and this caused a revival in the planting of fruits, which, with periods of depression and renewed interest, we can follow down to the present time. This is not only true of our own state but of the whole country. Special fruits have been found especially adapted to the soil and climate of different sections, and in many instances the production of this special fruit or fruits has become the chief industry.

It was only a few years ago that our markets were supplied with nearly all of its fruit from the surrounding country, little being received from outside the state; but, as railroads began to multiply and the cost of transportation to cheapen, fruits from other sections began to be seen in our markets, and as the science of handling, packing and shipping fruits became better understood, the distance of shipments increased; so that today we have to compete in our markets with grapes, peaches, pears and plums from California, peaches from Georgia, grapes from Ohio, apples and grapes from New York, and apples from Michigan, Missouri and Nova Scotia, to say nothing of the immense quantities of oranges shipped from California and Florida. Although the orange is not grown by us in Massachusetts, it probably affects the market price of our apples more than all of the other tropical and semi-tropical fruits put together, and it will continue to do so.

Before the day of rapid transit and shipping of fruits in specially constructed cars and the introduction of cold storage, it often happened that a partial failure of a crop in one section caused a corresponding scarcity in that section, and prices advanced to a point that was out of reach of all but the wealthy. Today this does not happen for any length of time. Our country extends over such an extent of territory and has such a varied climate that the

There is a town in this state where the assessed value of farm property, with but one exception, is less than it was twenty years ago. This land was planted to fruits and instead of being assessed the same or less than it was twenty years ago, it is assessed four times what it was then and the assessors say "it is not now assessed over one half of what it is worth." Here is one instance where Massachusetts farm property has not decreased in value, and there can and should be hundreds of similar cases throughout our state.

It may be said if apples are planted extensively, the markets will be overstocked and prices will drop to such a figure that there will be no profit to the grower. It is just here that a revolution must come in the marketing of apples. It is not the quantity of choice fruit, well handled and packed, placed on the market that breaks the price, but the inferior fruit or good fruit improperly handled that glutts our markets. This poor fruit placed on the market must be disposed of for whatever it will bring and this prevents the sale of good fruit, unless one is willing to sell for a correspondingly low price. Every barrel of inferior apples sold practically prevents the sale of a barrel of choice fruit, and every barrel of apples sold that is improperly handled or dishonestly sorted and packed causes the purchaser to lose confidence, and he is unwilling to pay as much as he would, if he were sure every time of getting a barrel of apples well sorted and packed. There is not too much good fruit sent to our markets but too much inferior fruit of which some other use should be made.

It is not from those who take good care of their orchards that the bulk of the improperly packed and inferior fruit comes, but from the average farmer who either does not know or will not take the trouble to care for his trees or handle his fruit as it should be. The time has passed when apples can be grown and made to pay under such treatment, and the sooner the average farmer goes out of the fruit business the better off will he be. These orchards have not paid in the past, and the chances are that they will pay less in future as competition increases and the markets call for better fruit. The fruit business is following in the line of other industries and is becoming a business of itself. More are making fruit growing a specialty than in the past. More orchards containing thousands and tens of thousands of trees have been planted by individuals and stock companies during the past fifteen years than ever before, and the extensive planting is still going on.

It is only about ten or twelve years since California first began to ship fruit to our markets to any considerable extent, and but about fifteen years since the exporting of apples to Europe began to be an important factor in the handling of the apple crop. How important a bearing the exporting of apples has upon our home markets can be known when we realize that during the season of 1896 and 1897, nearly 3,000,000 barrels of apples were shipped to Europe. If we should look through our lists of fruits we shall find that commercial fruit growing has nearly all sprung up since the close of the Civil War, and the greater portion of it within the past twenty years.

The peach has attracted considerable attention during the past few years and many large orchards have been planted. Some have proved a success, others have proved a failure. This has been the history of peach growing in this state. In looking over the report of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture of fifty or more years ago, this statement is made: "That peaches do not do as well as they did fifty years previous, and the greatest success is obtained where the trees are planted on high ground." This is no less true today than it was one hundred or more years ago, and the site selected for the growing of peaches should be land higher than that of the surrounding country, having a good circulation of air and where the fruit buds will be less liable to be killed during the winter. Still, there is no certainty that the buds will not be injured in Massa-

chusetts even when the trees are planted in the most favorable localities. During the past seventeen years peach trees with me have given good crops in 1883, '89, '93, '95 and '97, and partial crops in 1887, '88, '91 and '94, making five good crops and four partial crops. I do not think it wise to reckon on over two full crops during the life of a peach tree. The price of home grown peaches is not what it used to be, the price of the '95 and '97 crops being very low. There will probably never come a time when all the home grown peaches, if well grown, will not find a market at a price above that of southern fruit on account of the better flavor, color and less waste.

With small fruits, the markets of the future will be supplied with its best fruit from local sources, and those who grow the best fruit will sell their products at a profit, while the growers of inferior fruit will be compelled to sell at a loss.

In the growing of fruits it is the same as in other kinds of business. More depends on the man than on the business, and if one has not a liking for fruit growing and is willing to take for his motto, and live up to it, "Eternal vigilance is the price of success," he had better never undertake it.

The N. E. Milk Producers' Union.

The directors of the New England Milk Producers' Union will meet the Boston milk contractors on Thursday afternoon, March 10, to see if an agreement cannot be reached relative to the sale of milk to the contractors for the coming six months ending Oct. 1, 1898. The union is in good shape for the contest, and by many it is believed that unless the contractors are willing to make different terms from what they have made before, the time has come for the producers to sell their own milk in the Boston market.

This can be accomplished by selling direct to the peddlers from the milk cans, and it is evident that this would not continue a great while before union depots would be established. In fact, it is believed that the sale of milk to the peddlers from the cans would net the producers much greater profit than they now receive, and the price to the peddlers be the same or less than they now pay, —a mutual advantage, which, if followed up, would result in union milk depots.

The farmers realize their position, and at the price they have been selling milk, they have either robbed their stock, their farms, or their families, and are not, by reason of selling milk, in as good a position as they were a few years ago. The time to call a halt has arrived and the situation studied to see if there is not a better way for them to dispose of their dairy product, and one that will return them at least a living. If a contest does come between the producers and contractors for the control of the Boston market, it will undoubtedly be long and bitter, but the ultimate result will be in favor of the farmers. The directors of the union are leaving no stone unturned to devise ways and means of bettering the condition, and the price received by the producers.

Marketing the Apple Crop.

In his paper on the above subject at the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' meeting this week, Chas. W. Cushing of Fitchburg, said that during the years of 1896 and 1897, apples to the amount of nearly \$600 were retailed in Fitchburg. Two car loads were sent to England. He said he did not know as there was any secret in disposing of a big lot of apples when they are so plentiful, but his experience had taught him that marketing apples consisted chiefly in having the packages look attractive, and making the fruit look as good on top as they do on the bottom.

"Everybody knows the great difficulty in selling apples in a year when they are so plentiful," he said, "but I thought the most profitable way was to put the fruit into bushel baskets.

"My express wagon holds just nine bushels and the load was taken to Fitchburg early each week-day morning. Customers were supplied every day and a new route was taken on each trip. Sometimes a customer would take one or two barrels, and the empty barrel would be taken home, filled, and returned the following day.

"The apple crop of 1897 and 1898 was disposed of in about the same way as those of 1896 and 1897. The amount sold was about \$275 worth, but the trouble in selling them this year was far less than it was in the previous year.

Maple Sugar.

We used to have the impression that nearly all the maple sugar in this country was made in Vermont and a good deal of it and much of the very best quality certainly is made in that state. But a few years ago when our government offered a bounty on sugar it resulted in revealing the fact that maple sugar was made in all northern and some southern states. That part of the tariff of 1890 that provided for the bounty was, as all will remember, soon repealed, yet during the short time it was in force it greatly increased the interest in maple sugar making and doubtless gave it an impetus that has to a certain degree been retained.

Maple sugar is a delicious product, when pure and properly made. Adulteration and carelessness in its production have many times brought it into bad repute. Then again, though strange as it may seem, there are people in this western country who never having tasted any but an adulterated or imitation article, suspect the genuine when it is shown them or they taste it.

If all the maple sugar and syrup offered for sale in the cities and villages all over this country as Vermont goods were made in that state, then Vermont could be credited with 90 to 95 per cent. of the entire product. Go where you will it is "Vermont maple sugar" and "Vermont maple syrup" that is offered for sale at least nine times out of ten.

It is greatly to the credit of Vermont that its farmers and the leading business men of several of its cities and large villages have formed associations to prevent adulteration of maple products within the state and attest their purity and identify their origin when sent outside the state.

Chicago, we are sorry to say, seems to be a city where a great deal is done not only in adulterating maple products but in the production of imitation and bogus goods. Doubtless more so-called maple sugar and syrup is sold in and sent out from Chicago each year as Vermont goods than that state ever produced in any one of its best years. Some one has said that but one article could ever be found in a perfectly pure condition in Chicago and that was—suspectness.

Vermonters should take some means of educating western people to an actual knowledge of their genuine maple sugar and syrup. They should have attended to it during the World's Fair, but neglecting to do so then, the Omaha Exposition offers them an opportunity that they should not neglect. Their associations for the advance of the maple sugar interests of the state should unite in sending some one to that exposition with a quantity of pure Vermont maple products to be sold and perhaps in some instances given away, and thus give thousands an opportunity to taste for the first time in their lives pure Vermont maple sugar. —Farmers' Guide.

Paint Around the Farm.

One of the most useful things about the farm is a pot of paint. At this time of the year a good deal of repair work on buildings can be done by yourself or hands, and in connection therewith, painting also. The easiest way is to buy a can of paint at a store, and the best place to use it is where it is needed. The tin roof and the gutters and valleys and water tables or the house and barn roof, porch or out-building roof, all likely need paint. Tin should be painted once every two years at least, and for bare tin or rusty tin red lead is the best. Buy it dry and mix enough for the job, as it quickly settles to the bottom of the pot and gets hard. On top of this put a coat of iron paint or Venetian paint, mixed in oil. First clean off the tin. Putty holes in roof or open places around windows and over doors to keep out cold and wet.

A rusty milk-pail, too far gone for milk, may have bottom painted and puttied, inside and out, and will do for carrying cold water, feed, etc., just as well as a new one.

The field machinery, such as plows, harrows, cultivators, etc., might be the better for a coat of paint. There's hardly any wear out to things kept repaired and painted. Tubs and buckets, at the house or barn, should be kept painted on the outside. Green looks well; while any color will answer for farm tools, provided it is red. Red wears better than green under exposure of weather. A song tells us about the "Wearing of the Green," but green is a notoriously bad color for wear. Pretty, though.

The good wife will probably want her garden trellis, etc., painted. Green looks best on these. Do it now and not wait until spring, when you won't have time for it.

Don't waste time whitewashing where paint is so much cheaper—I mean for fences and these small buildings. Don't whitewash ceilings or walls in the house except in the cellar, because paint is cheaper and better. Paper is also cheap, but not so sanitary as paint, nor so easily applied.

Paint the porch floor, to keep it from warping, splintering and rotting. Lead

color, drab, dull buff or ochre color is good. All outside paint should be mixed only with raw linseed oil and a little Japan to dry it. Never add turpentine or varnish to outside paint, nor kerosene oil, benzine, etc. Poor economy to use poor paint.—A. Ashmun Kelly, in Country Gentleman.

What Sheep to Raise.

If we make an inspection of the sheep brought in for sale in some of our largest stockyards, as I have done in the past few days, one cannot but ask, "What kind of beasts are these?" "Eighty-eight per cent of them are not worthy of the name of sheep; they are not even fit for guano, for flesh they have not, bones they are not, wool is not. While this sort of nondescript trash is supplied to our markets sheep husbandry should not lay claim to a place. In our day of advanced agricultural and modern civilization they are not what is wanted either at home or abroad."

Even today men who ought to know better are trying experiments with breeds that if followed by many will keep us back in the business another decade. Men need no longer experiment with crossing one breed with another. Put up two questions where you can always see them, then work to them. They are these: What kind of mutton does the market demand? What kind of wool does the market want? Remember always that it means today, not what the demand was fifty years ago, not last year or yesterday, but today and the future.

The highest-priced sheep sold in our markets today are those that are suited for the clubs and hotels in our largest cities. For such sheep a ready market is found at twenty-five and thirty cents per pound. When you can get \$37 to \$42 for the carcass of a lamb or wether you are entitled to distinction as a sheep grower. In the large stockyards of our country the highest price is paid for export mutton. Such sheep must be well matured at an early age, large and uniform, with good, solid flesh, not too fat and not at all lean.

Ordinary common sheep put in pens and gorged on rich feed or will from malt houses will not meet the demand, for such sheep are too fat and the meat will never harden.

Sheep must be of good blood, capable of maturing early, of good constitution, by heredity, so that they can attain size and weight with exercise and on dry feed. The exercise makes muscle, and that is lean meat. Such sheep stand shipping and do not shrink or soften.

Our export sheep come in competition in the foreign markets with those from many other countries, and we should take a national pride in having our produce compare favorably with any others. We have greater range, better feed and more favorable conditions to grow perfect animals than almost any other country, and all it needs to give us the credit abroad of producing the best and securing the maximum price and maintaining a steady trade for our growers to use their brains and couple their work with their intelligent reasoning.—From address at Bradford, Ont., reported in Breeders' Gazette.

The Home Market for Berries.

In discussing this question I shall confine myself largely to my own personal experience. I have sometimes had poor fruit, always the result of neglect, and in that case have never allowed it to tarnish my reputation, but quietly slipped around to some dealer and let him have it at his own price, and then devoted my energies to growing a better grade of fruit.

The successful fruit-grower must not only grow the finest fruit, but he must educate his customers and manipulate them so as to keep them everlastingly eating and calling for more. The greatest error a progressive fruit-grower ever made is to take his fruit to some groceryman to sell, and there set it down until his customers carry it away. Berries are always exposed to free air in front of the store, often in the sun, and made the roosting place for countless flies, and are pawed over by the dirty hands of boys and tobacco masticators until they are unsightly and positively repulsive. Then they are dished up in a paper pail and generally carried by children, receiving the banging incident to their playful nature, the fruit being so bruised and the flavor destroyed that one small dish will suffice or any member of the family.

The dealer is much like the fruit-grower and other mortals. He can sell the most berries when cheapest, and is therefore always a bear on the market. He considers it his privilege to sell the last few quarts at cost by sticking on the reduced price ticket when he sees the grower coming with fresh supplies, and the telephone enables all grocers to fix the price without any regard to supply and demand. I submitted to the injustice for the first three years of my commercial growing and then decided to take matters into my own hands and master the situation. I had devoted every energy to produce superior fruit, and that year I

had before me the finest berries I had ever seen, and proceeded with utmost assurance to secure the market. I had made me a beautiful wagon, painted as the finest carriage, calash top and artistically lettered in gold leaf with my own name and the name of the farm. A large shiny black horse was dressed in a heavy brass-trimmed harness kept polished like gold. I then went for the printers. A neat four-page circular with suitable engravings was printed in two colors so as to describe the fruit, giving people to understand what I had to offer, and how they would get it. These were neatly folded and a man (not a boy) called every lady to the door and handed her one of these circulars. The local columns of the daily papers were filled with a one-line advertisement. It read, "To be happy eat Kellogg's berries." Then a family ticket was printed, so each family could keep their own account. The "cruel men" do not furnish the good wife with plenty of money, and so a cash business can't be done in this way, but payment was made every Monday, except with merchants, where the bill was presented at the store.

A competent superintendent was placed in charge of the pickers, and each one required to put the berries in the bottom of the box and face the top off with medium-sized berries with points all turned up, making them look especially beautiful. A solid box was never used and woe to the picker who put a bottom or a bad berry in the box. My wagon had a driver whose business it was to have it at the place most convenient, and see that a crate was prepared with the different kinds of berries, so I could step to the wagon and exchange a crate without loss of time, and there have the different varieties to tempt the appetite. I regarded it as my mission on earth to keep these people stuffing themselves with berries. If they tired of one kind I always had one of a different sort to revive their appetite. Morning, noon, and night they kept gnawing away. Two, four, six, eight quarts and frequently a half bushel for Sunday were required in place of the one and two quarts formerly received from the grocery.

I never overcharged a customer, but did insist on having a good price for fancy fruit. Quality must be considered. It often happened that other growers came on the market and cut prices, and their goods were promptly bought and shipped to other points, and thus the dealers were compelled to pay the prices I fixed on all fruits coming in competition with my own. I never sold a dealer a crate of berries and then went to his customers and retailed them at the same price. It costs money to do business and I always insisted on full retail price unless a half bushel was taken. The dealers soon saw I had natural advantages with which they could not compete, and that they were fairly dealt with, and so the boycott wore off. The fact is I never discovered there was a boycott until the thing was over.

Whenever the people would not eat all the offerings the price was promptly reduced to increase the consumption. When a cut was made it was to everybody. People are very sensitive about this and the utmost fairness must be maintained.

When I sold my strawberries, I engaged my raspberries, blackberries and other fruit, which I so managed that I was on the market selling almost every day during the summer. The grower must make himself familiar with the best methods of canning and putting up fruit, which I so managed that a continual succession was had and I was on the market selling almost every day during the summer. The grower must make himself familiar with the best methods of canning and putting up fruits and be able to expatiate on the different varieties for this purpose.

Customers are often unreasonable in their demands and one's patience is often severely tried, but never forget the worst use you can make with them, is to quarrel. Be sure you are right, then be firm, courteous and liberal, so when they break off they can come back to you as easily as possible. If persons misrepresent you to others you will often find it profitable to refuse to supply them.

There is much hard work connected with marketing in this way, but with the person who has the tact and snap there is a good deal of pleasure in it. To see the children run and shout, "The berry man is coming," the family ticket promptly at the door, selection made and charged on the ticket, compliments of the day said, and expressions of pleasure incident to the berry season, are always enjoyable.

By manipulating the market in this way I have succeeded in maintaining the price, so I received from three to five cents per quart more than I would have permitted the groceryman to bear the market and fix the price. I have been told this could not be done in a large city. This always makes me smile. If I had a large city to market in I surely should do it precisely in this way. The laws of Michigan permit a man to sell his own products in

any way he pleases in any town or city without regard to license. If I did not care to deliver to houses direct I would arrange with one dealer in each part of the town, and then acquaint his customers with the fact that my berries could be had at that place, either by sending them circular letters or through the papers.

I never would belittle myself by running from one house to another and peddling stuff. I would have regular customers and know where my berries were going before I left the farm. One of the beauties of this method is that you know exactly where every berry is to be placed.

If there comes a cool day and berries do not ripen you can put people off, and if hot and sultry, so they ripen fast, a little urging will make people take more. Anyhow this is my favorite way of marketing fruit.—Michigan Farmer.

Plant Sugar Maples.

Should we plant maple groves? There can hardly be two opinions to this subject. The beet-sugar industry is a problem. The maple sugar industry never was a problem. It pays better than three-fourths of our farm work. At 8 cents a pound, maple sugar finds ready market, while much of the better product sells at 10 cents and 12 cents. The syrup is sold by producers directly to consumers at \$1 a gallon—very rarely less than 80 cents. Throughout New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and other states, this direct sale to consumers takes up a large part of the product, excepting only two or three counties in northern New York. But it is not, just now, as a market product that the subject should be mainly considered. Every family is a sugar consumer and a sugar buyer. Most farmers can make the larger part of this sugar supply as easily as they can raise their own potatoes.

A family of six or seven will consume from one to two barrels of sugar a year. Granulated sugar will cost such a family from \$15 to \$30 a year. A grove of fifty trees will produce from 200 to 250 pounds of maple sugar. That is, where the trees stand in the open. The product is less where the sugar is made from trees in the forest. This is equivalent to at least half the family's requirements for sugar. But the sales of syrup will make an aggregate value per tree even higher. A grove of fifty trees standing in the open, will occupy not more than a quarter of an acre. Besides the sugar produced, the grove is advantageous for shade, also for an enormous product of humus each fall, and for windbreaks and shelter, and as an equalizer of temperature and moisture. Maple trees should grow in a grove. They do not thrive well as street trees, where they are subject to much abuse of the saw and exposure of the trunk to hot sunshine. A grove might well be given a place on every farm of twenty acres. Why shall there not be a general planting of maple groves during the spring of 1898.

The Russians have a quaint proverb: "God help the bachelor! The housewife helps a husband."—Household.

Healthy Baby When Born

In Three Months Humor Spread Over His Forehead

Into His Eyes and All Over His Hands

Such Itching, Burning Torture—How It Ended.

When a child is cured of the itching torture and burning inflammation of eczema or salt rheum, it is no wonder that words fail to express the joy of the grateful parents, and that they gladly tell in as strong terms as possible the plain story of suffering relieved and health restored. Many testimonials relate the wonderful success of Hood's Sarsaparilla in such cases, even after all other prescriptions and medicines fail. Here is one:

"C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.: 'Dear Sir:—Our boy Harvey will remember the good Hood's Sarsaparilla did him as long as he lives. He was a healthy baby when he was born, but before he was three months old a breaking out appeared on both sides of his face. Physicians did him little good and said but for his strong constitution he could not have lived through his dreadful suffering. The humor spread over his forehead, into his eyes, and came out on his hands. It was 'dreadful' to witness the poor child's sufferings. It was very painful for him to open or shut his eyes, and we had to tie his little hands to prevent him from scratching the itching, burning skin. My mother urged us to try Hood's Sarsaparilla. We did so, and a short time after he began to take the medicine we saw a change for the better. We continued until we had given him five bottles, and then the eczema had entirely disappeared, and he has ever since been perfectly cured of this dreadful disease. His sufferings extended over two and a half years. People for miles around knew his dreadful condition and know that Hood's Sarsaparilla cured him. He is now a bright, boy, perfectly healthy and has the finest skin of any of my five children.'"

Mrs. L. K. HARRIS, Collegeville, Pa. Hood's Sarsaparilla is sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Be sure to get Hood's.

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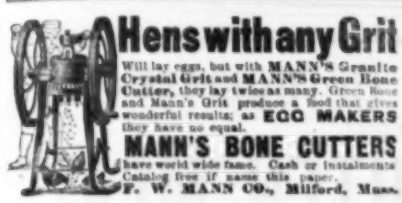
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POULTRY.

Poultry Notes.

For hardness the scrub stock affords a good foundation.

The best layers of a breed are generally of the medium size.

Too much glass in a house is the common cause of frozen combs.

After all, there is no best breed, so much depends on the point of view.

Neither overfed hens nor full-fed tramps care about doing any work.

Nothing will make hens lay and chickens grow like plenty of milk to drink.

It is a waste of money to get good stock unless the buyer is ready to give it good care.

For the average farmer it is best to keep fowls principally for eggs and poultry as a side issue.

A pale comb is not necessarily a sign of disease. Fowls wear bright combs only during the laying season.

The common mistake of farmers is to give hens too much of one kind of feed and that feed is generally corn.

Over-feeding and over-crowding and under exercise tell the story of the average failure in poultry farming.

No vegetable comes so handy for the poultry grower as cabbage. Hang it up and the chickens do the rest.

Good treatment for the yards in early spring is to scatter air-slacked lime and dig it under at once, then let the hens scratch it level.

The lungs of lice are in their skin. Hence the value of dust baths. Anything that clogs the skin of insects stops their breathing and suffocates them.

C. L. Drake's recipe for roup is turpentine and lard in equal parts; a teaspoonful three times a day. Apply some of it to the outside of the head.

The best way to warm up fowls early in the morning before the scalded feed is given is to scatter a little grain in the chaff on the floor and let them work for it.

The dairy business requires a large farm but poultry keeping requires only a small area. That is an important advantage. Hens however, need more room than they generally get.

Males of games and other quarrelsome breeds may have their spurs clipped off with pruning shears with good effect to their dispositions. Despoiled fowls are as tame as deboned cattle.

There is a chance for improvement of turkeys in the direction of more compact in shape and fuller breast. Most people buy a medium sized turkey, but they want plumpness and plenty of white meat.

One farmer says, "I should think well of incubators if some one used to them would make a business of hatching chickens for those not used to them." Here is a hint for enterprising young men who will learn to succeed with incubators.

The hard grain ration should be considered rather a chance for exercise than a food. It is quite an art to feed it in a way to get the most work out of the hens. Proper feeding of the grain alone makes a great difference in the winter's egg production.

The hen which is the best forager and the best feeder is likely to be the best layer. A man who spends much time with his fowls, can easily pick out those which have most gumption. He will find, as a general rule, these are the ones oftenest seen on the nest.

It is better to allow the chickens to help themselves to charcoal, rather than to mix it with the soft feed. Break or grind it into pieces about the size of corn or wheat, according to the size and age of the fowls. Corn charred on the cob is a good form of charcoal.

Frozen combs are the fault of some birds besides the hens. If frozen in the night something is wrong with the house. There may be too much glass, or drafts upon the roosts. A thatch of straw should be placed on a rack between the roosts. If frozen during the day time the hens have been allowed to go out in the cold and snow.

An extensive western poultryman has good success feeding the soft feed at night instead of morning as is the usual custom. His idea is that exercise will keep the hens warm enough in the daytime, but he thinks that hot food, easy to digest, will do them most good when on the roost.

Little is gained by cross-breeding ducks. The Pekin breed is so excellent both for meat and eggs that no cross seems much, if any, good. Pekins are early layers and prolific, and will grow the greatest number of pounds of flesh in the shortest time. They get along better without water than other breeds.

No branch of agriculture has been helped so little by the experiment stations as that of poultry raising. There are hundreds of important points which have to be taken on the "say so" of various authorities, simply for the reason that no reliable tests have been made except in a few particulars.

A choice trade can never be held when supplied with dirty eggs. An egg which has once been soiled can never be made to look first class by any amount of washing. Eggs get soiled from dirty nests and soiled feed of the fowls. The remedy is good nests, plenty of chaff on the floor and clean roosts.

When it comes to the best breed, it is surprising what a good argument can be made by an enthusiastic grower for some breed which is generally considered second-rate for practical purposes. A man who is fond of a breed will take first-rate care of it and get better results than he would from a better breed in which he took less interest.

The non-setting breeds will sometimes set in spite of that title; if they do not set they are sure to take a rest some time in the year. It is often asserted by some breeders that such breeds as Brahmas, Langhans, etc., lay better in winter than the smaller breeds. This statement lacks proof and should be investigated by the experiment stations.

Two-thirds of the letters written to poultry papers at this time are inquiries about the well known and very common disease, roup. The trouble has several stages and many forms, just as colds and similar diseases have with human beings, and the disease is sometimes hard to distinguish. Roup is brought on by the same causes which bring on colds in human beings; dampness, drafts, over-feeding and general low vitality.

A large hen yard does not need so large a fence as a small one. Where there is plenty of room to range about, and the grass is not all killed out, hens will seldom take the trouble to fly over a five foot fence, although they will crawl through the holes in it if not kept in good repair. But a small yard with nothing in it to keep the fowls occupied must be surrounded by a high fence, or hens of small breeds will give a good deal of trouble.

The dairy papers have a great deal to say about weeding out the unprofitable cows from the dairy herd. Little is said about weeding out the worthless hens, although there is just as great a difference in hens as in cows. It is more difficult to sort out hens than cattle, but if the poultryman spends as much time with his hens as he ought to he will soon be able to tell fairly well which of the hens are laying the best eggs and the most of them. When the egg of a good hen is known by sight, it should be saved when possible for hatching.

The Western and Southern poultrymen have advantage over the grower in the East by reason of cheaper food, but the difference is much more than offset by the better markets of the Eastern cities; Boston, New York and Philadelphia afford the best markets for high grade poultry and eggs. Those who live near the large cities or their suburbs and can deal directly with the consumers or with commission men who handle a fancy trade have as good locations for profit as can be found in this country.

T. B. Terry, of Ohio, made an interesting experiment with a potato last year. This potato he cut into 74 pieces, each piece having one-sixth of an eye. The pieces were planted in 74 hills 33 inches apart each way. The land was clover sod, the planting being done late after a crop of clover had been cut, and the crop suffered from lack of moisture, but by the time the potatoes had matured the vines covered the ground and from an exact square rod the yield was over five pecks of large tubers, at the rate of 200 bushels per acre. Mr. Terry does not recommend the use of one-sixth of an eye in planting, but he thinks that one eye to a hill is sufficient; his experiment ought to prove it. He says only potatoes of strong vitality would be capable of making such a yield as his potato made. —Rural Canadian.

Care of Milch Cows.

The feeding and care of milch cows is one of the most important subjects to be considered by farmers. On this depends the matter of profit or loss in keeping cows. Many farmers who keep cows do not know whether they are making a profit or loss. The profit from a cow comes in only when she gives more value than she receives and only to that amount which she gives above what she receives.

The question may be asked what profit should a cow give in a year?

A good deal depends upon the kind of cow, and a good deal depends upon how she is treated. A good cow, properly fed and cared for, is in equal partnership with her owner, and will deal with him honestly if he deals fairly and honestly with her. Everything considered, she will make twice the amount she receives. She takes one-half the proceeds for her share and her work. Her owner gets the other half for his share and his work. Is not that fair dealing? If her owner does not do his part well she may keep it all to herself and give him nothing. Would you not say "served him right"? You cannot cheat the old lady, if you try; she will rob you every day. Experience says: "Honesty is the best policy," and so it is, even with a cow.

The question of feeding milch cows is one which requires careful consideration. You wish the cow to give milk, and what is milk? Milk is composed of several constituents of solids held in solution in a considerable quantity of water.

Ordinary normal milk consists of about 13-12 to 14 per cent. of milk sugar and a little mineral matter and about 87 per cent. of water. You will see from this that the cow needs a variety of substances in her food and an abundant supply of pure water, without which she cannot make much milk.

The next question is, What is the milk cow's natural food? We answer, plenty of good grass. This is her natural food and she is so constructed that she can take a large quantity of grass or other bulky feed and so manipulate it as to take the essence out of it, and give it back in the form of milk, one of the most nourishing and healthy foods we have.

What shall we do when the grass fails, or when we have no grass? Well just as you would do in any other matter of importance. When you cannot get the best, get the next best you can, and the next best all the time, and remember always you are feeding for milk. In the early part of the summer if the pasture is short, feed clover and early hay grass, cut and wilt it a day before you feed it. If you do not it will give the milk a strong flavor and spoil your butter.

Further on in the season have peas and oats mixed ready to cut, as these are the next best feed. Sow them at different times, beginning as early as you can, so that you will have plenty to carry the cows on in full milk till you have early corn ready to cut, not the large southern corn but that early corn that will have ears well grown. For winter feed there is nothing cheaper or better than good corn ensilage, with one feed of hay or good straw at midday for rough feed, and give a fair allowance of grain and cotton-seed meal while the cow is milking. When corn is not grown cut straw and mangels or carrots can take the place of the ensilage. No turnips, unless they are cooked, so long as the cow is milking.

Under ordinary circumstances cows should go dry about six weeks or two months before they come into fresh milk again. I have learned from a good many years of experience that when a cow comes within six weeks of her time she will go down in condition if she is not fed a little grain and taken good care of. By bringing her in in good condition it gives her a better start to do a good summer's work.

If cows come in early and require house feeding for a length of time they should have a warm feed night and morning. It will keep up the flow of milk till they get on to the pasture. It is a great mistake to let cows down in condition or in the flow of milk in the spring, if you do you cannot bring them up again, and you will be a loser by it all the season.

By bringing in cows in good condition all the organs of her body which are associated with motherhood and the making of milk are developed and brought into their proper condition. If this is not done at that period it never can be done at any other time.

We will now consider the care of the cow. She should have a good comfortable stable in winter, clean and light, and well ventilated. She should always be treated kindly, and that means she

should be kept clean and have all her wants well supplied and have a good bed to lie on. Don't forget she is a milch cow. If you do not care for her properly she will not give so much milk. If you keep her in a cold stable and she is compelled to breathe in a cold atmosphere she will use a great part of her food to keep herself warm, which is rather expensive. Anything that annoys or makes her uncomfortable will lessen the quantity and also reduce the quality of her milk. These things are not theories, they are solid facts learned by experience.—Prof. Robertson, at Carleton County Farmers' Institute, reported in Rural Canadian.

APIARY.

Bees in Early Spring.

A colony of bees to be in the best possible condition at this season of the year, should have at least ten or fifteen pounds of honey, the most of which is good sealed stores. It is at this time that the bees begin to draw on their stores to quite an extent, and as warmer weather approaches, they still draw much more heavily as the amount of brood increase. A shortage of stores will materially affect the amount of brood reared, and the result will be weak colonies.

Strong colonies only are the profitable ones, and the stronger they are the more profit is derived from them. The apiarist well knows that weak colonies at the beginning of the principal honey harvest means a small honey crop, and with strong ones he is as sure otherwise.

It is only by beginning early that we can attain the best results in securing good strong colonies that will store an immense crop of honey. A fair colony to start with in early spring, backed by a good supply of food at all times, will usually give strong, profitable colonies. If there is a shortage of honey in the hive, the deficiency may be filled by feeding, and just as good results obtained.

Brood rearing may be produced more rapidly by feeding bees than would otherwise be produced by allowing them to draw on their own stores. Beekeepers sometimes feed during early spring, regardless of the amount of stores the bees may have in their hives. This is called stimulative feeding. It stimulates the bees and queen to rear brood, and the queen will increase her egg production considerably under this treatment. To do this properly, it is necessary to feed a little each day, thus imitating a natural flow of honey. Of course this feeding is done only at times that the bees cannot gather honey from flowers. For if they can gather honey it answers the same purpose, and feeding is then stopped until honey gathering again ceases.

Bees that are in any degree scant of stores are in danger of becoming a total loss during the breeding season. It is only at intervals during spring time that bees have an opportunity to gather honey from flowers, and when a honey flow thus sets in the queen deposits eggs rapidly, until the honey flow stops, and frequently the bees are then left with a large amount of brood on hand that is bound to consume all the honey in the hive to save, thus they run ashore, and this means starvation, unless another flow of honey opens in a short time.—A. H. Duff, in Western Rural.

Extracted Honey.

Comb honey is an ornament and generally a luxury. Extracted honey is a plain food and can be enjoyed by the masses. It can be produced more cheaply and in larger quantity than that in the comb. If it is intelligently produced and properly handled it is preferable to comb honey simply as a food or table sauce, though not ornamental.

There is so much adulterated glucose mixture on the market sold as extracted honey that the producer of a good article can not compete with it in price. Under the circumstances many of our producers of extracted honey have taken a short cut and extracted "green" honey and ripened it artificially which produces a very inferior article. This poor honey and the adulterated mixtures have so demoralized the general market for extracted that if we wish to profitably produce fine flavored, well-ripened extracted honey, we must make a local trade for it.

For some years I produced a limited quantity of extra fine extracted honey and sold it to local customers, and many prefer it to comb honey. Bees gather nectar but they make it into honey. If we extract it before the bees have ripened it, that is, made it into honey, it will be but little better than the glucose mixtures now so general on our market. What the bees do to the nectar I cannot fully explain, but I do know that to have fine extracted honey with that ambrosial aroma that distinguishes it from all other sweets, we must allow the bees to ripen it fully in the hives before extracting.

My plan is to have plenty of comb and extracting supers and when one is filled

I raise it up and put an empty one under it and repeat as often as is necessary. In this way my honey is fully ripened on the hive and the bees always have plenty of room to store and rarely swarm. By careful management not more than one-third to one-half is capped and that saves considerable uncapping, and also saves considerable work for the bees. When the honey flow is over I allow the last to ripen and then extract. It is hard work to throw out such heavy honey, but I was always paid for it thus far. While ordinary honey is selling for six to seven cents, I could sell mine for ten to twelve cents, and often did not have enough to meet the demand.—L. W. Lighty, Pa., in American Gardening.

Salt Hay Mulch for Strawberries.

In reply to a question as to the value of a salt hay mulch for strawberries, several correspondents of the American Gardener give the following replies:

Have seen salt hay used as a strawberry mulch for a number of years by a great many people with good results and have never seen a case where the salt did harm to the leaves. Have also found it the best mulch on account of it having no weed seeds.—K.

I answer, no! I have used salt hay to cover all my strawberry plants for the past twenty-five years and have never found any injury from it. I believe there is but little if any salt in hay grown on salt marshes. It is the only kind of mulch that can be used with safety, except pine leaves, because there is but little if any seed that will germinate on the upland.—H. Jerolaman.

If the salt hay lays spread out on the grass ground and goes through several rains there will be no salt in it to hurt the plants. I never have seen any harm done in the way he speaks, but our hay always gets well rain-washed before we apply it.—E. W. W.

Salt hay has been used for mulching strawberry plantations in this section of Delaware for thirty years or more by the most extensive and successful growers, and I have never heard the use of it for mulch burning the plants; in fact, just the reverse should be the case. If there is salt enough in the hay it should keep the soil around the plants moist. We use German potash salts on some of the vegetable crops, on account of the tendency to keep the soil moist, and it will apply as well to strawberry growing.—C. G. Brown.

Have used salt hay as a mulch for strawberries for the past fifteen years and prefer it to stable manure, leaves or any coarse litter. In using the latter as a mulch one is apt to get a number of weeds in his patch. M. L. B.'s informant's patch was injured from some other cause; possibly rust.—J. K.

The salt hay will not hurt the plants if raked between the rows as soon as warm weather commences.—C. C. N.



The man who breaks in the wild, vicious bronchos on the western plains must have superb physical endurance, nerves of steel, unquenchable thirst, and determination.

It takes a whole man to conquer a vicious animal. People may talk about intellectual superiority and refinement and good breeding, but every man takes off his hat to physical strength and endurance. While the man who leads a sedentary life cannot hope, in this respect, to rival these sturdy men of the plains, they can be sound, vigorous, healthy men if they will. It is a matter of care of health while one has it, and the proper measures to restore it when it is lost. Most diseases begin with some trouble of the digestive organs or of the liver. Troubles of this nature starve the body, because they prevent it from receiving its proper supply of nourishment. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery gives a man an appetite like a cow-boy's and the digestion of an ostrich. Its great work is upon the stomach, large intestines and liver. These are the organs that nourish a man's body. This medicine makes them strong, vigorous and healthy. It fills the blood with the nourishment that builds new, solid and healthy flesh, muscle and nerves. "I am now enjoying magnificent health, after having suffered for years with chronic catarrh," writes Ramon Sanchez, Esq., of Pensacola, Texas Co., New Mexico. "By the use of your 'Golden Medical Discovery' I have recovered my health, and am now, physically a sound man, attending to my business and enjoying life."

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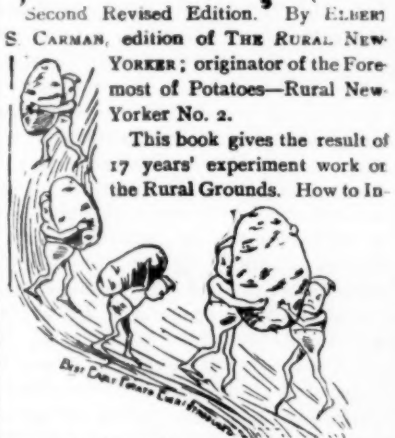
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THE HOUSEHOLD.

THE FAIRIES' TROLLEY.

The fairies laugh at mortals' folly
For boasting of their wondrous trolley.
For they were first, I know it well,
To run a line from dell to dell.

The spider spins, of course, the wire,
The fire-flies make the sparks of fire;
The line is hung from tree to tree,
And the motor-man is a Bumble Bee.

For he can hum and buzz, as well
As clang the gong, a big blue bell;
His uniform is black and yellow,
He really is a handsome fellow.

The conductor's place the Wasp must take
For he can sting speeches make.
"All aboard! Don't take all night!"
"Step lively, please. Go ahead! All right!"

So if you find the Fairy Dell,
Listen for the big blue bell;
You'll hear the trolleys whizzing by,
But it's hidden, of course, from mortal eye.

—Anna K. Almy, in St. Nicholas.

THE STORY OF THE LITTLE WHITE KITTEN.

There was once a dear little kitten whose tiny pink paws were as soft as velvet, and whose silky fur was as pure white as the fleecy floating clouds which go sailing over the blue sky in the summer time.

This little kitten lived with its black and white mother and two small black brothers, away up on the hayloft in a big barn. The small black brothers and the little white kitten led a merry life together. The old black and white mother cat loved them dearly, and the wonder is that she didn't wear her rough old tongue all out trying to keep them clean.

She used to tell the other cats whom she met on the back fence, and who used to visit together in a friendly way before they began their evening concert, that, for her part, she wanted to know that her children were clean whether they were black or white.

One night, a minister's gray cat came to one of the back fence concerts, and she and the black and white cat talked about their children. The minister's cat thought it was a shame to keep cunning little kittens hidden away in a hayloft, because little boys and girls were good to kittens and liked to play with them. She said her kittens had a cozy bed back of the stove in the kitchen, and the minister's seven children were very fond of them. The black and white cat shook her head slowly and told the minister's cat that she had rather not have her cunning, round, fat kittens handled by any minister's children in the land; but just then they heard a few very long musical me-ows, indicating that the concert had begun and they must take their places and sing too.

Sometimes, when the old black and white mother cat was at home in the hayloft with the two small black brothers and the little white kitten, she was so very proud of her family that she acted quite silly. She used to get up and walk around among them, purring loudly all the time; at other times, she would lie still and watch them play and think they were wonderfully smart because they used to chase their own tails round and round.

The little white kitten had a saucy habit of running up to her mother and sticking her cold pink nose right in her mother's face; this always made the old black and white mother cat sneeze, and then the little white kitten would scamper away and play with wisps of hay.

At last there came a time when the two black brothers were left alone in the hayloft, because a very bad accident happened when the old black and white mother cat was away catching mice. The barn in which the happy family lived was a doctor's barn, and the three kittens had often heard the doctor's boy open the big outside doors and come in and take the doctor's carriage out into the barnyard, but as their nest was away back on the hayloft, they had never ventured near enough to the edge to see what was going on. One day, however, when they had grown very tired of chasing their own tails and scrambling about in the hay, they crept very carefully to the edge of the loft and peeped into the barn below. If the doctor's boy had glanced up then, he would have been very much surprised to see the three little kittens watching him; but he didn't look up nor look around at all, and that is why he didn't see the poor little white kitten when she fell from the loft right down into the doctor's carriage.

The poor little white kitten mewled and mewled, but the doctor's boy didn't hear it, and just as soon as the restless horses were hitched to the carriage, the doctor himself came and jumped in, and away they drove.

On and on and on they went, farther and farther from the cozy home and the small black brothers. The poor little kitten, curled into a pitiful white ball of downy fur in the bottom of the carriage, was too frightened to think or stir; but when the carriage stopped at last and the doctor got out and tied his horses, the little white kitten ventured to look around. Then she gave a mighty jump and followed the doctor with cunning little leaps and springs to the door of a large white house.

The doctor was so big and altogether so important a person, that he didn't know there was a little white kitten at his heels, and when the door was opened and the doctor went inside, in went the kitten too.

Lying on a snowy cot, in one of the prettiest rooms in the beautiful home, was the doctor's tiny patient. Putting his medicine case on a low chair by the bedside, the doctor stood for a few moments looking thoughtfully at the pale baby face and talking in low tones to the child's anxious mother.

In the mean time the little white kitten was trying to balance its small self on this dignified doctor's medicine case; it was then that the large blue eyes opened and for the first time in many a long day, the stillness of the pretty room was broken by the laugh of a child.

It may be that Jane's curly dark hair reminded the little white kitten of the two small black brothers in the hayloft, but, however that may be, the kitten with the tiny pink paws and the child with the tiny pale baby face from the

time on, were the best of friends, and as Janet grew better every day there-fore, she named the kitten "Medicine," because, so she said, the little white kitten cured her.

And no one ever knew where the little white kitten came from.—Our Animal Friends.

WORRY'S USELESS BRIDGES.

Where is the thrill of last night's fear?
Where is the stain of last week's tear?
Where is the tooth that ached last year?
Where were the lost pins you got?

For last night's riddle is all made plain,
The sunshine laughs at the long-past rain,
And the tooth that ached has lost its pain—
That's where our troubles go to.

Where are the clothes that we used to wear?
Where are the burdens we used to bear?
Where is the bald head's curling hair?
Where were the pins that disappeared?

For the style has changed and the clothes are new,
The skies are wearing a brighter hue,
The hair doesn't snarl like it used to do,
And the parting has grown more clear too.

Where are the bills that our peace distressed?
Where is the pin that the baby "blessed"?
Where are the doves of last year's nest?
Where have the pins all gone to?

On the old bills paid are new ones thrown,
And the baby's at school with her pins out-grown,
And the doves have flown to their nest of love,
And the pins we'll find tomorrow.

—Robert J. Burdett.

Winnie Winton's Wisdom.

"There seems to be no difficulty that you cannot overcome. I want to know if you have had any experience in ironing shirt bosoms and cuffs we buy ready made which have lengthway of the goods one side, placed in the opposite direction from that on the other side. In collars and cuffs the lengthway of the goods is always on the wrong side."

I asked this of Winnie one day when I stepped in and found her ironing. "After such articles are washed," continued I, "the right side is full of wrinkles and no amount of stretching can pull them out, because of the straight piece side."

"Come here," said Winnie. She stepped to the table. She picked up a cuff made of print. The lengthway of the goods ran the lengthway of the cuff on the wrong side and "cross-ways" on the right side.

The goods were striped and so made the stripes run across the short way of the cuff. That is the way I like them. I would not have a cuff with the stripes running around it, but I always made the "grain" of the goods match in all parts. But the outside of this cuff looked hopeless because no amount of pulling nor rubbing lessened the number of wrinkles.

Winnie placed it on the ironing board with the wrong side up, ran the iron over it the lengthway two or three times, turned it over, and lo! no wrinkle was visible. It certainly was not magic, because I can do it too, now, and I am no magician. She then ironed it on the right side, the short way of the cuff, until it was almost dry enough, then turned it over and ironed it on the wrong side again, the lengthway of the cuff, which flushed drying it and also gave it the desired curve.

"It may be that they are so made to utilize goods," said she "but I think it is done for a purpose. When the goods are so put together and ironed the way I have ironed them the outside is smooth, but yet 'gives' enough to allow the desired curve while the lining holds them firmly to place."

"But you have no trouble with sticky starch nor did you have to put any more starch on after ironing and iron again as some do," said I.

"Well, I like to have my clothes dry before I starch them. I cook the starch well, add a little lump of lard or tallow, a little spermaceti and have it tolerably thick. I rub it well into bosoms, collars and cuffs and then dry them. When ready to iron I make a little more starch and starch them again to dampen them instead of sprinkling them. I roll them up and let them lay awhile and they are ready to iron as you saw. If they are not glossy enough I sometimes rub a little more starch on the right side and give them a finishing touch with the iron."

"Tell me where you learned to iron such refractory articles?"

"Oh, I learned it by experimenting," said Winnie.—Indiana Farmer.

"THE RIDDLE OF THINGS THAT ARE."

We walk in a world where no man reads
The riddle of things that are—
From a tiny fern in the valley's heart
To that of the largest star.

Yet we know that the pressure of life is hard
And the silence of Death is deep,
As we iron and rise on the tangled way
That leads to the gate of sleep.

We know that the problems of Sin and Pain,
And the passions that lead to crime,
Are the mysteries locked from age to age
In the awful vault of Time;

Yet we lift our weary feet and strive
Through the mire and mist to grope
And find a ledge on the mount of Faith
In the morning land of Hope.

—Harper's Weekly.

The Uses of Beauty.

A party of ladies visited a thread factory, where a number of young women worked, and in which marked attention had been given to aesthetic as well as hygienic principles. One of the visitors was much impressed by a broad, beautiful frieze that extended round the spacious, well-lighted work room, and remarked somewhat bluntly: "I don't see the use of a frieze like that in a factory."

Why do you have it? The proprietor of the factory, who was acting as their guide, smiled pleasantly. "Well, come to think of it, for a very practical reason," he said. "I find that it makes better thread."

It has been proved that environment has a great deal to do with the quality of work. Beauty is an aid to morality, the handsome, artistic frieze would insensibly tend to make the operative more self-respecting, and her work more conscientious. Also, it would tend to refine and inspire her. Human nature is chameleon-like; it has an instinctive tendency to harmonize with its surroundings.

THE HOME CORNER.

FREE PATTERN.

By special arrangements with the HAZARD GLOVE-FITTING PATTERN CO., we are able to supply our readers with the *Basar Glove Fitting Patterns* at a very low cost. It is acknowledged by every one that these patterns are the simplest, most economical and most reliable patterns published. Full directions accompany each pattern, and our lady readers have been invariably pleased with them in the past. The coupon below must accompany each order, otherwise the pattern will cost the full price.

MASS. PLOUGHMAN COUPON.

Cut this out, fill in your name, address, number and size of pattern desired, and mail it to—
"THE HOME CORNER, MASS. PLOUGHMAN,
BOSTON, MASS."

Name.....
Address.....
No. of Pattern.....
Size.....
Enclose ten cents to pay expenses.



7255-Ladies' and Misses' V-ist.

Popular as the regulation shirt waist has become there is a demand for something slightly more snug, which at the same time can be worn for occasions of simple dress. The design shown in the illustration is peculiarly suited to such purpose and is stylish as well as entirely comfortable. The foundation is a fitted lining showing single in place of double bust-darts. The fulness at both back and fronts is laid in fine gathers at the shoulder seams and is drawn down smoothly at the waist line. The under-arm gores which connect the fronts and the back are smooth-fitting and render the adjustment more snug than is possible where they are omitted from the silk. The sleeves are two-seamed and are finished with slight puffs at the shoulders. At the neck is a stock collar and plisse bow of the material and at the waist is shown a belt of black silk. To make this waist for a lady in the medium size will require four and one-half yards of twenty-two inch material. The pattern, No. 7255, is cut in sizes for a 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40-inch bust measure, and for misses of twelve, fourteen and sixteen years. With coupon, 10 cents.



7257-Child's Blouse Dress.

Nothing makes prettier or more attractive frocks for little girls than figured French chailie. The model shown in the illustration is eminently stylish, and in which marked attention has been given to aesthetic as well as hygienic principles. The foundation for the blouse is a fitted body lining that closes at the center-back. The yoke portion of tucked India silk is seamed at the shoulders and attached to the lining at the line of perforation shown in the pattern. The blouse portion below is seamed under the arms only and pounces over the belt at both front and back. The sleeves are two-seamed and snug-fitting but are finished at the shoulders with small puffs which support the divided bretelles. The latter, which are edged with a fine form a becoming trimming and serve to conceal the joining of yoke and blouse. The skirt is straight and hemmed at the bottom, the fulness at the waist being arranged in gathers and attached to the band. At the neck is a collar of striped ribbon and at the waist a sash of the same bowed at the back. To make this frock for a child of

eight years will require 4 1-2 yards of 27-inch material. The pattern, No. 7297, is cut in sizes for children of 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. With coupon, 10 cents.

Quaint and cool are the little lawn bands in pale yellow and pink, and tan color, folded narrowly and looking so neatly beneath the chin and very small accordion plaited lawn bows. On the same counter with these are white Swiss muslin scarfs having their arrowhead ends embroidered in black, or deep yellow, or bright blue flowers, this marking one of the late stages of the neck scarf.

Never in the history of man or woman have there been so many and such fascinating things for the neck displayed in the shops as at the present time, says Harper's Bazar. The woman who cannot find something becoming amongst the variety must be exceedingly plain. All during the winter there have been ties of bright ribbon shown, long enough to go once around the neck and tie in front in a slip knot. These have fringe at the ends, and are very effective; but such quantities of them are to be seen now that it is a question whether they will be among the smart things during the summer. However, they are extremely pretty, and, as a rule, are not expensive.

The bright Roman colors are very much used, as are the figured ribbons and some plain taffetas with pretty designs. One of taffetas has an edge that looks like ermine; another has a chine finish with shaded rose-buds. Even the plain ribbons are to be used in this style of neck-wear—the plain satins and the taffetas; and with a black satin waist for general wear a black satin tie looks very well, but of course dead black against the skin is very rarely becoming.

To wear with the new taffetas waists are most charming stock-collars made of tucked taffeta, the shade of the waist, and edged with white taffeta put on with hem-stitching. These stock-collars lie in front with a big double bow-knot and no ends. Made of chiffon, mousseline de soie, and such thin materials, including fine nets and gauzes, are dainty little collars and cuffs suitable to wear with light gowns. These are very perishable, but extremely becoming. They are never cheap, and yet there will be a great many of them seen, for it is a fashion it will be hard to resist.

There is a perfect craze for white ties, and certainly they look most effective worn with light waists and showing when the coats are thrown open. Some are of net with lace ends, but the greater number are of the sprigged net with lace to match. Some are made of two pieces of lace sewed together and then another piece across the ends, the joining hidden by narrow baby ribbon. The best length is two yards, and a half a yard the best width. They are then long enough to go around the neck once and tie in a good-size bow with long ends. These can easily be made at home, and any woman who goes in for wearing them will need to have several, as they so soon soil, and of course cannot be worn if they look the least tumbled or shabby.

Besides the neck-ties there are a great many bows to wear at the throat. These are of thin material, like chiffon, etc., and are also trimmed with lace, or else have the ends made of the very closely pleated chiffon with a ruche on the edge. This gives a full, soft, and fluffy effect. Real lace is very much used to trim these ties, but there are also a great many imitations which are fine and pretty enough for ordinary wear.

It is surprising that so few take advantage of wholesale rates in buying food supplies says a correspondent of the Ohio Farmer. Farmers watch other and less important leakages, but give this no attention whatever. To be sure there are a few staple supplies that cannot be bought much less by the quantity, sugar among them, but the greater part of them admit of a certain margin, a little saved here and there, the annual total being really surprising to those who have never tried this method.

In buying kerosene by the barrel you save about three cents on each gallon—over \$1 on the whole—and this commodity will keep for any length of time. On cereals, dry groceries, canned fruit (and much of it is now being used upon the farms) by the ten pounds or dozen packages or cans, you will save "quite a penny," and these will keep exactly as well in your storeroom or attic as at the grocer's. Small wares, as ginger, soda, starch, sugar, baking powder, etc., those little packages that a few in daily use in a large family, are cheaper by the dozen, and if placed in a cool dry place, will keep indefinitely. Soap by the box is not only less expensive but more economical, as it grows dry and hard with age, and dry soap lasts much longer than we all know. On dried fruits, prunes, raisins, apricots, currants, etc., from two to four cents per pound may be saved by buying in ten-pound weight. Crackers are convenient to keep in the house, are cheaper by the box, and are soon crisp up again by heating them in the oven for two minutes. One-half a dozen salted codfish and (quit) half a dozen salmon (pickled) are one too many for the winter's supply. And so we could go on and enumerate other supplies, among which are some of women's especial domain, from factory cotton down to shoestrings and thread. A dozen spools of thread cost 48 cents, singly 5 cents each; 12 cents saved on each box. Thread is always needed, so are shoestrings, and are cheaper by the dozen. Cotton cloth and crash are considerably cheaper by the piece; hosiery, handkerchiefs, white shirts, underwear; in fact, there is but little upon which you cannot save a little upon a quantity, and the shopman will assort the sizes as you wish, to suit the needs of the family.

I know that a woman may save enough in dry goods alone to purchase a good gown or a pretty piece of furniture during a year, by buying in this way for her family. "But," says one, "it takes more money to buy in this way." It does at the start; a little pinching at first, then it will be easy. But the money saved at the end of the year (as you will see by keeping an account) is the best testimony for the excellence of this system of buying.

Among the most effective agencies are hot fomentations; they will ease pain

eight years will require 4 1-2 yards of 27-inch material. The pattern, No. 7297, is cut in sizes for children of 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. With coupon, 10 cents.



7317-Ladies' Princess Tea Gown.

Blue-and-white French chailie was the material chosen for this model garment, the decorations being cream-white lace and insertion. Although quite simple in construction, it has an air of elegance that distinguishes it from the ordinary house gown. The backs are trimly adjusted to the figure by means of a centre seam and curving side back seams, while the fronts have double bust-darts and a deep under-arm dart that renders the fitting perfect. The full front and back present the wattleau effect that is particularly pleasing in tea gowns or wrappers. Below the waist line the seams of the garment gradually expand, affording the requisite fulness to the skirt, which has a foot decoration in the form of a narrow ruffle of lace headed by a band of insertion. The lower edge of the yoke is defined by a full berth of the material, which is mitred to form three graceful points that fall over the sleeves, with insertion and lace daintily decorating the edges. The sleeves are slightly full above the elbows and are finished with small puffs at the shoulders. Cashmeres, India and foulard silks as well as light weight flannels are eminently well suited to the model and can be trusted to develop satisfactorily, while for genuine summer, gingham, madras and the like are to be commended. To make this wrapper for a lady in the medium size will require ten yards of forty-four inch material. The pattern, No. 7317, is cut in sizes for a 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inch bust measure. With coupon, 10 cents.

Black gowns are in vogue, some with broad, others with satin ribbon trimming, says the Philadelphia Record.

Plaid canvas goods are attracting attention of buyers of spring goods.

White satin revers braided in black silk cord embellish a stylish short cape of black velvet.

Some of the more elaborate suede belts are added with steel nailheads and finished with small steel buckles.

Open-work stripes, tuck, crepon and boucle effects characterize novel grenadines in black and colors.

Hairline stripes in camel's hair, tweed, serge, etc., are popular.

The imported silk and wool mixtures are expensive, but very handsome and effective.

Red bengaline silks are used in combination with black and white, red and black checked taffetas for fancy waists.

Silk and velvet yokes in cloth bodies are prettily outlined with a gold cording or narrow piping of satin.

Velvet ribbon, No. 5, in cross rows, is a favorite for trimming sleeves.

Turquoise blue velvet with black-and-white costumes is a fad with fashion's followers.

Ascot ties of accordion-plaited silk are new, beautiful and dressy.

The favorite colors used in woolen goods are seen in fancy plaid gingham.

The collection of advance models in shirt waists shows some charming designs in white and colored pique with embroidery insertions.

Bright greens will be conspicuous in the millinery world.

Shirt waist collars would deserve more exhaustive consideration at the fashion chronicler's hands did they exhibit any marked variety over those we wore last year, says the Paris correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette.

So far everything rolls this spring and a good many cuffs as well as collars have been hemstitched. There is a fondness exhibited by tasteful women, for wearing plain lavender linen cuffs and collars with shirts of lavender and white stripes, plain blue with a checked blue and black skirt, and so on through the category of colors.

A slight diversity over the usual method is that of passing a bright ribbon twice around a rolling linen collar and tying it in a neat bow behind. In front a pretty pin is caught in the ribbon, but this has not done away with the spring tie of vivid plaid silk or a big cushion Ascot made of the most lively striped satin, worn like a cheerful sort of plaster across many feminine chests.

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DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—When I wrote to you last June, I was not able to do anything. I suffered with backache, headache, bearing-down pains, pains in my lower limbs, and ached all through my body. Menstruations were very painful. I was almost a skeleton. I followed your advice and now am well and fleshy, and able to do all my own housework. I took medicine from a physician for over a year, and it did not do me a particle of good. I would advise all suffering women to write to Mrs. Pinkham. She will answer all letters promptly, and tell them how to cure those aches and pains so common to women.—Mrs. C. L. WINS, Marquette, Texas.

I think it is my duty to write and let you know what your medicine has done for me. For two years I suffered with female weakness, bearing-down pains, headache, backache, and too frequent occurrence of the menses. I was always complaining. My husband urged me to try your Vegetable Compound, and I finally did. I have taken three bottles and it has made me feel like a different woman. I advise every woman that suffers to get your medicine and be cured.—Mrs. GARRETT LITCH, 612 S. Prince St., Lancaster, Pa.

I had suffered for over two years with backache, headache, dizziness, nervousness, failing and ulceration of the womb, leucorrhoea, and about every ill a woman could have. I had tried doctors, but with no success, and it seemed as though death was the only relief for me. After using five bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and four packages of Sarsaparilla, I am well. Have had no more pain, wound trouble, backache or headache.—Mrs. CLAUDIA HALPIN, Cream Ridge, N. J.

Before taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I was afflicted with female complaints so that I could hardly walk. My back ached terribly, in fact, I ached all over. Was not able to raise myself up some of the time. I had no appetite and was so nervous that I could hardly sleep. I have taken but two bottles of your Compound and feel like another person, can now eat and sleep to perfection, in fact, am perfectly well.—Mrs. SUE McCULLOUGH, Adlai, W. Va.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound; A Woman's Remedy for Woman's Ills.

when nothing else will, and there are few kinds of physical suffering they will not alleviate—colic, cramps, lumbago, neuralgia, rheumatism, gout, toothache, abscesses, headache, earache, pleurisy, all loosen their fangs under hot fomentations, says a correspondent of a western exchange.

Besides, croup and pneumonia can be thus relieved. More people would have recourse to them if they knew just how to manage them.

Flannel is the only proper cloth; for application over the body, a fourth of an old blanket is the best thing possible. There is a proper way to wet and wring it. Fold it in a shape suited to the place it is to be applied, and then hold the end in the hand and dip the center in boiling water. Let one person then take one end and the other, and twist in different directions, and it can be wrung dry enough without scalding the hands if it is folded short enough one person can wring it in this way. Wrap in thin, dry flannel; lay on the patient.

But better than this may be done with a hot-water bag; they should always be covered with flannel; it trebles their usefulness, for in no case is the dry heat of the rubber as effective as the heat from hot water direct, and the easiest fomentation in the world is obtained by simply wetting the outside of a flannel hot-water bag as well as filling it.

The flannel then stays pretty hot till it is dry, and to wet it again is the simplest thing in the world. The way a hot-water bag so used will ease the agony is simply magical. After fomentations, the heated surface should be sponged with alcohol and warmly covered. With these precautions there is no fear of taking cold.

In cases of severe headache it is frequently better to apply the fomentations to the stomach or to the feet than to the head itself.

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